

Nicholas George

SYH

March 31, 2009

CVRWQCB

Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer  
11020 Sun Center Drive #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

SUBJECT: winter wet season closure of Rubicon Trail to motorized recreation: Support

Central Valley Water Board,

The winter wet season closure of the Rubicon Trail to motorized recreation is an important step to take to eliminate resource damage. It should be implemented immediately - with little or no cost.

Protect our Forests. While the Rubicon is a county road, it has become an unmanaged extreme off road vehicle park with severe impacts to the Trail and adjacent National Forest lands that are being destroyed by off-roaders. I have seen this with my own eyes, while hiking and skiing in the area.

Take proven measures. The winter wet season closure of the Trail is the first major step that should be implemented immediately. The abuses of snow and wet season travel by 4x4 vehicles on this route is well documented by the users' own photos. Over the snow travel on nearby USFS dirt roads is not allowed. This one measure will go a long way toward eliminating a major cause of the ongoing resource damage with little to no cost to El Dorado County. Gates are a simple proven form of enforcement. Use remote cameras to document violations, thereby focusing enforcement action cost-effectively on the perpetrators.

Protect fragile resources. Restore the trail to a narrow historic street legal 4x4 route. Take steps to fix the damage already inflicted. Adopt an Operations and Maintenance Plan. Require cleanup of all oil spills and carry out of all human waste. Install, maintain, and monitor erosion control measures to ensure no damage is done to water quality.

Ban and enforce the ban on extreme vehicles, such as non-street legal "rock crawlers". These are causing most of the damage. Restrict use to street legal vehicles only. Use remote cameras to document violations, thereby focusing enforcement action cost-effectively on the perpetrators.

Use permits, fees, and quotas to protect the Trail. The Rubicon passes through high alpine forests identical to those in adjacent Desolation Wilderness. The difference between the two is appalling. The Forest Service limits use in Desolation through a quota system and a permit fee; why can't the county do the same for the Rubicon Trail?

Stop encroachment into non-motorized acres. Enforce existing boundaries and regulations. Use remote cameras to document violations, thereby focusing enforcement action cost-effectively on the perpetrators.

Start TODAY. The draft CAO (Clean up and Abatement Order) will not be an undue burden. In fact, it provides a necessary timeline and strong incentive to actually do the work.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,

*Nick*

Nicholas George

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